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Jamestown

Plainville

L. A. Cummings

PERSONAL - CONFIDENTIAL

March 28, 1958

PLAINVILLE WATER COMPANY

In order to make sure that you have all the information on the problem involving contamination of the 10" well of the Plainville Water Co. supplying the Town of Plainville with water, I would like to review in chronological order the happenings of the past couple of weeks.

March 10, 1958

Dr. Cook, Health Officer for the Town of Plainville called and advised that material from the MRC lagoon was contaminating the 10" well of the Plainville Water Co. He advised that he and Mr. Miner would like to talk with me on the subject. They called in the afternoon and we made a trip over to the 10" well. When this well was pumped onto the surface of the ground, there was considerable frothing and effervescing with a distinct odor present.

In discussing the matter with Mr. Miner, President of the Plainville Water Co., I learned that the difficulty had been noted some 10 days prior by employees of the water company when they had stopped pumping of the 10" well. Samples of the water had been taken and sent to Hartford for analysis with an indication of 12 or 13 parts per million of the anionic detergent. Dr. Cook advised that he must inform the State Board of Health, which he did on that day.

March 11, 1958

Dr. Cook, Mr. Lombardi of the State Water Resources Commission and Mr. Van Kleeck of the State Health Department called at the plant. They had been over and taken samples of the water at the 10" well prior to calling at the plant. We discussed the matter with them and gave them samples of the materials which we are using in the various washing machines and processes throughout the plant. These consisted of compound #1 and compound #200 from the Esbec Co., Gull cleaner from the M & M Chemical Co. and in addition samples of soda ash and sodiumnitrate which are used for raising the PH and to discourage rusting respectively.

Mr. Van Kleeck took samples of the water in the Hamlin Pond which is adjacent to the wells of the water company and from the MRC lagoon.

I assured these gentlemen that MRC was very much interested in eliminating the cause of difficulty and that we would work with them in clearing up the problem. I told them that we would be willing to change any compounds which they felt were contributing to the difficulty. I suggested to them that since there was a large volume of the material in the MRC lagoon, that steps should be taken to dispose of this material as soon as possible. I suggested that the Water Resources Commission consider approval for disposing of this material in the lagoon by passing it down the Quinnipiac River in quantities such as not to cause too much difficulty but still to dispose of material as rapidly as possible. This could be done at the present time if the State w... it since the flow of water is at its maximum and the farmers working along the river are not drawing water for irrigation purposes nor their cattle drinking from the river at the present season.

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I also asked that the State facilities be placed at our disposal in arriving at a method of treating the offending material and thus arrive at as early as possible a solution to the problem.

March 13, 1958

We gave Mr. Lombardi a sample of Solventrol #62 which we had apparently overlooked in obtaining previous samples. This material is used in our washing machine tied in with the quench conveyor from the large Westinghouse furnace.

March 25, 1958

We received a letter from Mr. Wm. S. Wise of the State Water Resources Commission, copy of which is attached.

Not having heard from Mr. Lombardi of the Water Resources Commission on the results of the samples being tested, I phoned him and was advised that the test had not been completed but preliminary report indicated that the sample from the MRC lagoon showed approximately 230 parts per million concentration of anionic detergent. Samples from the contaminated well showed 13 parts per million of the same material while a sample from the Hamlin Pond area indicated no trace whatsoever of the offending material.

Mr. Lombardi indicated that of the samples given to him, Esbec #1 showed approximately 30% anionic detergent content. We suggested to Mr. Lombardi that a meeting be arranged as soon as their tests were completed in order to arrive at a solution to the problem at an early date as possible.

Following the conversation with Mr. Lombardi, I have instructed our Mr. W. Coates to contact the Esbec people to get their suggestions on a replacement material of a non-offending type. I also had Mr. M. Berling contact the Bets Laboratories and have their consultant plan to be at Plainville at a date to be arranged when the State tests had been completed. This date was set for April 1st and Mr. Max Priester the Bets Laboratories' Consultant will be at Plainville March 31st and April 1st.

March 26, 1958

We received a letter from the State Department of Health over Mr. Warren J. Scott's signature and a report on the samples test. This indicated that in addition to Esbec #1 compound, Solventrol #62 compound was also a bad offender showing approximately 30% anionic detergent. This report also indicated Esbec #200 showed approximately 5% of the offensive material.

Instructions have been issued to find other materials for the three items which are causing the difficulty. One thing is certain and that is, we will have to put in some type of a treatment plant in the not too near distant future to treat plant effluent.

I shall keep you posted as to the results of the meeting Tuesday morning at which time Mr. Lombardi and Mr. Currie, Chief Engineer of the State Water Resources Commission, Mr. Miner of the Plainville Water Co., Dr. Cook, Plainville

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Health Officer, Mr. Carten of the Esbec Company and Mr. Priester of Beta Laboratories, Consultant, will be present. I also expect that we will have at this meeting at least one of the Plainville Town Selectmen since the matter came out in the open Wednesday night, March 26th at a special meeting of the Town Chairman.

The Plainville Water Co. has made tentative arrangements to obtain water from the Town of Bristol and New Britain should it be necessary to close down the second or 16" well which is located about 100 yards away from the 10" well which is presently supplying the needs of the Town.

JSA:EB


J. S. Appleyard

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